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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1945

BY

R. DE VEIL KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1945.

*Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the
Taunton Joint Isolation Hospital and Somerset County Council
Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Taunton:*

R. DE V. KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(appt. Nov., 1926).

Sanitary Inspector:

R. H. GARDNER, C.R.S.I. (appt. March, 1911)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. G. PAYNE, C.R.S.I. (appt. Feb., 1936)

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium:

Miss M. E. MOSSMAN, S.R.N. (appt. March, 1943)

Address: Taunton Isolation Hospital,

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Telephone: Taunton 2396.

Clerk to the Council:

P. O. COWLISHAW, Mary Street House, Taunton.

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1945.

Area (in acres)	70,675
Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1945	...						17,740
Census population, 1931	...	...	...	...	...		17,101
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books, on 31st December, 1945	...	...	...	...	...		4,935
Rateable value 31st December, 1945	...	...	...	...	...		£103,173
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1945							£430

Physical Features and Social Conditions.

The Taunton Rural District is roughly triangular, in the centre of which is the Urban District. It is bounded on the north by the Rural Districts of Williton and Bridgwater, on the east and south-east by Langport and Chard, on the south by Devon, and on the south-west by Wellington Rural District. The south and north-west portions of the district are very hilly, that towards the north-east flat and subject to flooding. The north-west portion is roughly bounded by the Quantock, Blackdown and Brendon Hills.

The District in the north is chiefly on the old and new red sandstone, and in the south on the lower lias and upper greensand; and that part which is in the valley on new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The area consists for the most part of rich pasture land.

The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agriculture, with withy growing and basket-making in the north-east. There is a paper mill at Creech St. Michael. A number of women work in the collar factories in Taunton.

The main line of the Great Western Railway runs through the District, with four branches.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:—

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ...	10.39
Legitimate ...	217	111	106		
Illegitimate ...	31	23	8		
	<u>248</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>114</u>		

Still Births—Total 7.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	27.45
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	0.03

Deaths—Total 223.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	12.56
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Deaths from Puerperal causes—Total 1.

	Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
From other Maternal Causes ...	1	4.03

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total 14.

Legitimate ...	11
Illegitimate ...	3
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ...	56.45
,, legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50.63
,, illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	96.77

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	38
,, Measles (all ages) ...	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
,, Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	—

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live births per 1,000 civilian population ...	16.1
Still births ,, ,, ,, ...	0.46
Deaths, all causes ,, ,, ,, ...	11.4
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	1.79
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	46.0

Causes of Death during 1944.

Cause of Death.					M.	F.	Total.
All Causes—Total	...	...	...	...	120	103	223
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, œsophagus, uterus	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	6	3	9
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	10	13	23
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	14	8	22
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	29	30	59
Other disease of the circulatory system	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	3	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Other respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other digestive disease	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
All other causes	...	...	...	...	9	12	21

Infant Mortality during 1945.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Congenital Conditions ...	2	1	—	1	4	1	1	—	—	2
Prematurity ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Misadventure ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Inattention at Birth ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tubercular Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dysentery (Sonne) ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	6	1	—	1	8	3	1	2	—	14

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases. Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. Taunton Rural District is one of the contributory Authorities. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, but they are maintained there by the Somerset County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are similarly admitted to the Isolation Hospital and maintained by the County Council.

Tuberculosis. Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County scheme for treatment. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopædic treatment are admitted to the Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopædic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with tubercular glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-Pox. Provision for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical. The District is served by the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and the various Hospitals in Bristol, at all of which there are in-patient and out-patient facilities.

Chronic Sick. These are received into the Public Assistance Institutions in the County and principally those in Taunton, Wellington and Williton.

Mental Sick. Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Cotford, near Taunton.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis. Clinics for this disease are held in the Borough of Taunton, as part of the County Tuberculosis Scheme, and are attended by a County Tuberculosis Officer. In conjunction with the Clinics there is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Disease. A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and the Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. And, in addition, as a war-time measure, there is a Maternity Home at Tetton House, in the Parish of Kingston, which is administered by the County Council. An Obstetric Consultant is also employed by the County Council, to whom medical practitioners can refer their difficult cases. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities. The County Laboratory is situated in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for the general bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District, without charge. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities. Two ambulances, under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, serve Taunton and the Rural District. The service is well organised and adequate. There are two permanent paid duty men, otherwise the whole duty is voluntary. Persons who belong to the Hospital Week Scheme are entitled to the use of the ambulances if a Doctor certifies the necessity, or of course in emergent accidents. Those not belonging to the Hospital Scheme may, on the Doctor's certificate, have the use of the ambulance by payment at moderate charges.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, places at the disposal of the Minister of Health a sum of £15,000,000 to assist schemes executed after the war for the provision or improvement of water supply and of sewerage facilities in Rural Districts, regard being taken, amongst other things, to the needs of industry and agriculture. The Council have under consideration a post-war scheme for the extension of a piped water supply to parishes requiring it. The provision of such a supply is most urgently needed in the following cases:—Cheddon Fitzpaine, Churchstanton (Churchingford and possibly Stapley), Creech St. Michael (Adsborough), Durston (the village), Kingston (the village, Greenway, Parsonage Lane, Fulford and Dodhill), Otterford (Bishopswood), Stoke St. Mary (the village), Tolland (the village), West Hatch (the village and higher portion of the parish), West Monkton (the village, Cherry Grove and Gotton).

Some of the parishes mentioned are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking, and any supply required in them must be obtained by application to the Corporation. The following parishes are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation:—Bishops Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Kingston, Norton Fitzwarren, Orchard Portman, Pitminster, Ruishton, Staplegrove, Stoke St. Mary, Thornfalcon, Trull and West Monkton.

Three water undertakings are owned by the Taunton Rural District Council. One is at Westleigh in the parish of Lydeard St. Lawrence, and the other in the parishes of West Bagborough and Cothelstone. Another water undertaking is that of the Crown Lands Estate, known as the Portman Supply, from which the Council buys water.

The "Portman Supply" is chlorinated before delivery to the consumers and quarterly bacteriological analyses of the 4 supplies show the waters to be entirely satisfactory.

The following return required by the Ministry of Health during 1944 presents in tabular form the position as to the distribution of piped water supplies in the District:—

PARISH.	Area of Parish. Acres.	No. of houses in Parish.	No. of houses having a piped water supply under pressure into or on to the house (including those with a tap outside only).	Of the houses not included in 3 (1), the number having within 100 yards of a water main available for a supply.	Of the houses not in 3 (1) & (2) the number that are in villages, hamlets or groups consisting of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter.	Of the houses not connected to a public sewer the number in villages, hamlets or groups of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter.
	1	2	3 (1)	3 (2)	3 (3)	4
Ash Priors ...	641	33	19	11	—	—
Bickenhall ...	1143	47	36	—	—	—
Bishops Hull ...	1283	390	281	84	—	—
Bishops Lydeard ...	4832	401	310	42	—	20
Cheddon Fitzpaine ...	1883	115	20	26	—	23
Churchstanton ...	5435	146	—	—	38	38
Combe Florey ...	1382	66	55	4	—	—
Corfe ...	1165	69	34	—	—	22
Cothelstone ...	1455	37	16	—	—	—
Creech St. Michael ...	2298	289	122	97	—	172
Curland ...	648	37	18	—	—	—
Durston ...	1013	49	—	—	—	43
Halse ...	1320	81	39	19	—	58
Hatch Beauchamp ...	1408	110	105	5	—	—
Kingston ...	2584	212	29	—	79	123
Lydeard St. Lawrence ...	2748	108	71	5	—	39
North Curry ...	5822	377	321	36	—	—
Norton Fitzwarren ...	2054	223	123	82	—	—
Orchard Portman ...	1665	50	17	—	—	—
Otterford ...	2446	89	—	—	34	—
Pitminster ...	5780	353	168	88	—	34 (Pitminster)
Ruishton ...	1027	138	82	48	—	33 (Blagdon)
Staple Fitzpaine ...	3029	56	42	—	—	64 (Staplehay)
Staplegrove ...	1027	84	39	48	—	114
Stoke St. Gregory ...	4135	348	339	3	—	—
Stoke St. Mary ...	2019	145	51	19	—	37
Thornfalcon ...	822	39	27	5	—	25
Tolland ...	842	24	2	—	—	—
Trull ...	2172	225	130	65	—	—
West Bagborough ...	2006	107	98	—	—	140
West Hatch ...	1619	84	9	—	—	57
West Monkton ...	2972	353	141	127	20	—
						110 (Bathpool)
						101 (M. Heath.)
						39 (Village)

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the Council had, at the end of the year, under consideration with the expert assistance of their Engineers a post-war Scheme for the Sewerage of those parts of the District which were not sewered. Proper Sewage disposal is not only an amenity but it is a necessity and is inevitable whenever a piped water supply has been provided. Pail closets and privy middens are most undesirable because they are more often than not badly attended to owing to the unpleasant work connected with them. A multiplication of privately owned cesspools and septic tanks is also undesirable and these have been increasing in number because of the addition of water closets and baths to houses having a piped water supply.

Only 6 parishes out of 32 in the District have Sewage Disposal works of their own and they are the parishes of:—

Bishops Hull—though some 30 houses or so are not connected with the main sewer. *Bishops Lydeard*.—Some of the Council Houses in this parish are not connected with the sewer. *Combe Florey*.—The disposal works here serves its purpose for the time being but is not large enough to deal with sewage from any more houses. *Hatch Beauchamp*.—These works are very old and entirely unsatisfactory. *North Curry*.—These works are in the nature of a sewage farm; it is doubtful whether it is not already working to over capacity and suffering from "Sewage sickness." *Norton Fitzwarren*.—Recent disposal works have been constructed here and should prove ample and satisfactory for a further increase in population.

On the whole, therefore, it may be said that the amount of sewerage in the District is negligible and to create new Disposal Works will be an expensive matter. This being the case, the Council have decided that the schemes submitted by their Engineers should be classified in the following order of priority so that the necessary works may be carried out in stages:—

1st Priority.

Bishops Hull.—Shutewater Hill.

Hatch Beauchamp Parish.

Staplegrove Parish.—Village only.

Pitminster Parish.

Trull Parish, including Comeytrowe but omitting Dipford area.

Corfe Parish.

West Monkton Parish.

Norton Fitzwarren.—Station Road and Southern part of parish.

Ruishton.—Village only.

Creech St. Michael.—Village as far as Police Station, excluding higher part of parish and Ham.

2nd Priority.

Lydeard St. Lawrence.—Village.

West Bagborough.—Village.

Combe Florey.—Village.

(The possibility of these three parishes being drained to the existing works at Bishops Lydeard to be considered.)

Halse Parish.

Ash Priors Parish.

Kingston Parish and the North and West part of Staple-grove including Langford.

Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish, including Lyngford.

Stoke St. Gregory.—Portion South of railway.

North Curry.—Oxen Lane and Greenway and extension North-east of parish.

Stoke St. Mary Parish.

Ruishton.—Henlade and Lower Henlade.

Shoreditch.

3rd Priority.

Creech St. Michael.—Ham and Northern part of parish including Adsborough.

Durstun Parish.

Stoke St. Gregory.—Portion North of railway.

North Curry.—Knapp, Lillesden, Wrantage and Newport.

Thornfalcon Parish.

Staple Fitzpaine Parish.

Curland Parish.

Churchstanton Parish (Stapley and Churchinford).

Otterford Parish (Bishopswood).

Bishops Hull.—Rumwell, Titherleigh, Roughmoor, Barr and Upcott.

Pitminster.—Howleigh and Angersleigh.

Trull.—Dipford area.

The drainage from the areas adjoining the Borough of Taunton mentioned in the 1st Priority list could be received into the Borough's sewers if permission to do so is obtained, and the acqui-

sition of the sewage disposal works recently constructed for military use at Sandhill Park in the parish of Bishops Lydeard and also the works at Silk Mill Crossing, in the Parish of Norton Fitzwarren, would be of great help in the general scheme.

Refuse Collection. The collection and disposal of unburnable household refuse now operates in all the parishes of the District. The average amount of collection per month is about 55 three-ton lorry loads. The loads are tipped into clay pits in the parish of Creech St. Michael and controlled. The tips are constantly sprayed with proprietary insecticides to meet the fly menace and the rats are successfully kept under by the application of poisoned bait containing zinc phosphide and arsenic after pre-baiting with damp sausage rusks.

Salvage. This war-time measure continued to be carried out by the Public Health Staff and is still successful. The position for the year 1945 of Taunton Rural District in the Rural District table of sixteen was as follows:—Paper collection, 8th place; Bone collection, 1st place; Rag collection, 1st place; Cash Sales value, 7th place. The Ministry of Supply discontinued the collection of flattened tins and salvaged rubber during 1944. Salvage of the following materials was made during the year:—

					Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	70	16	0
Iron	...	...	...	...	17	2	3
Non-ferrous metals	...	...	...	...		4	0
Bones	...	...	...	...	18	13	0
Rags	...	...	...	...	12	6	2
Cash Values	...	...	...	...	£577	14s.	5d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors:—

Number and nature of inspections during the year:—

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	491
No. of Dwelling houses repaired	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ in hand	...	...	...	...	4
Voluntarily closed	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	321
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	42
Other premises where food is prepared or sold	...	...	...	...	89
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	359
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	...	...	...	...	10
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	...	...	...	...	37
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	47
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	129

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	27
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	—

Result of service of Notices:—

Total Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	23
Notices standing over at the end of 1944	...	...	...	...	4

In addition, 34 samples of water were taken for examination by the County Bacteriologist. 13 of these (from Wells) were unsatisfactory. 8 Wells were closed and main water laid on, and 5 others after repair, pumping out and heavy chlorination eventually produced potable waters. Main water was laid on to 36 houses during the year.

Shops and Offices. Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences, 36 visits were made.

Camping Sites. The local Authority have not found it necessary to issue any licences in respect of these, as advertised camping sites appear to fall within Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement. There has been no necessity to take action under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are not any in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. No cases occurred during the year. Three void cottages, infested with fleas, were treated with a solution of Leathane and afterwards re-decorated prior to re-occupation.

Schools. The sanitary condition and water supplies of the Schools in the area are satisfactory. The Schools and medical examination of the scholars are under the control of the Education Committee of the County Council.

Offensive Trades. There is one Offensive Trade in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936; it is for Tripe Boiling. The premises are well maintained and in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses. There are 21 Bakehouses in the District. 42 inspections were made to them. They are on the whole satisfactory. Nineteen of them now draw their water supply from public mains.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. With the exception of samples of milk, numbering 233, no other foods were sent to the County Laboratory for examination during the year.

Milk Supply. There are 376 milk producing premises in the District. Owing to the large number, it was only possible to inspect each one once during the year. Owing to shortage of labour, methods of production are not on the whole satisfactory and much greater care is required in general cleanliness. As a result of the inspections the following works have been carried out:—

New cowsheds	...	...	...	...	15
New dairies	...	...	...	...	26
Yards concreted	...	...	...	...	11
Existing cowsheds remodelled	...	...	...	...	24
Existing dairies remodelled	...	...	...	...	3
Water from mains installed	...	...	...	...	13

The analytical results of the 233 samples of milk taken are as follows:—

Designation.	No. of Samples taken.	No. found satisfactory.	No. found unsatisfactory.	Percentage unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	104	81	23	22.1
Accredited	98	68	30	30.6
Examined for tubercle bacilli	25	25	—	—
Examined for B. coli ...	6	3	3	50.0
	233	177	56	23.0

These results are far from good, and 3 Accredited Producers were suspended.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—Under this Order, 3 cows had to be slaughtered during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.—The Registers which have to be kept under this Order show as follows:—

Number of Producers on the Register 376

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—

(a) Distributors only 12

(b) Distributors who are also Producers ... 35

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under this Order, the following licences issued by the County Council are in force in the District:—

Licences: Tuberculin Tested milk producers ... 28

Accredited milk producers 26

In addition, there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Taunton Rural District Council for the sale of Pasteurised milk in their area but which is not Pasteurised therein.

Meat Supply. Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughterhouses, and the meat after inspection is distributed over a very large area within and without the district. The inspection of meat under these conditions takes up a large portion of the time of the two Sanitary Inspectors. The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the number of parts thereof condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	0	0	16,959	164	4
Number inspected ...	0	0	16,959	164	4
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	28	6	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	181	27	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	0	0	1.23	2.01	0
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	4	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	8	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0.07	0	0

The 4 Veal carcasses, condemned because of congenital tuberculosis, were referred to the Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In each case the dams of the calves were found to be generalised T.B. cases and were destroyed.

The following were also condemned as being unfit for food:—

Bacon ...	169 lbs.	Biscuits ...	120 lbs.
Eggs ...	84	Dried Fruit ...	160 lbs.
Flour and Cakes	87 lbs.	Beef ...	580 lbs.
Tea ...	51 lbs.	Tinned Foods ...	74 tins.
Sugar ...	70 lbs.	Potatoes ...	120 cwts.
Rice ...	300 lbs.		

In the year 1939, there were 32 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the District, and under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, the Humane Killer is in use in the District (Section 1) and Slaughtermen are licensed by the Local Authority (Section 3).

HOUSING.

There have been no cases of overcrowding during the year. There are 637 less evacuees in the district than in 1944, leaving only 12 children.

Six houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, at Athelney, Stanmore, North Curry, Creech St. Michael, Stoke St. Gregory and West Monkton had their licences renewed. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Sec. 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the housing needs of the influx of agricultural workers and covered by Regulation 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them in such a condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used as a temporary wartime measure for housing purposes without detriment to health. Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the occupation of a house, but the licence is not operative for more than six months at a time.

The Council have had under consideration the post-war housing needs of the District (a) to replace unfit dwellings; (b) to abate overcrowding; (c) for other reasons.

A survey has been carried out throughout the District, and 491 houses were inspected; it is probable that 103 houses will have to be dealt with under Sec. 11 and 249 under Sec. 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Having considered all the factors, the Council decided to erect, during a period of 5 years, 213 dwellings plus 150 more in the parish of West Monkton if present conditions there continue as a permanency. The following parishes require these houses:—

Ash Priors	2	North Curry	20
Bickenhall	2	Norton Fitzwarren	12
Bishops Hull	20	Orchard Portman	—
Bishops Lydeard	16	Otterford	4
Cheddon Fitzpaine	—	Pitminster	6
Churchstanton	6	Ruishton	6
Combe Florey	4	Staple Fitzpaine	—
Corfe	4	Staplegrove	4
Cothelstone	3	Stoke St. Gregory	20
Creech St. Michael	12	Stoke St. Mary	4
Curland	2	Thornfalcon	4
Durstun	2	Tolland	2
Halse	4	Trull	12
Hatch Beauchamp	—	West Bagborough	6
Kingston	6	West Hatch	6
Lydeard St. Lawrence	8	West Monkton	16

The Council also decided on a one-year building programme as follows:—

	Acres.	Houses.		Acres.	Houses.
Bishops Hull ...	4.00	8	Stoke St. Gregory	.75	6
Bishops Lydeard ...	.25	2	Thornfalcon ...	.50	4
Combe Florey ...	.50	2	Trull ...	1.00	4
Creech St. Michael...	1.25	4	West Bagborough..	.50	4
Curland ...	.25	2	West Monkton ...	3.056	10
Lydeard St. Lawrence	1.00	4			

All the sites for this Post-War Housing Scheme have been settled upon by the Council.

The following table shows the Parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts:—

Parish.	Address.	Number of Houses.
Bishops Hull ...	1/38 Smithy Cottages ...	38
do. ...	20/35 Mountway Cottages ...	16
		— 54
Bishops Lydeard ...	1/8 Gore Cottages ...	8
do. ...	1/10 Pound Lane ...	10
do. ...	1/10 Mill Lane Cottages ...	10
do. ...	1/30 Halfyard Cottages ...	30
		— 58
Cheddon Fitzpaine ...	1/8 School Cottages ...	8
Churchstanton ...	1/4 Stapley Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/4 Church Road Cottages ...	4
		— 8
Creech St. Michael ...	1/8 Ryes Terrace ...	8
do. ...	1/6 Charlton Lane Cottages ...	6
do. ...	1/4 Cheads Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/16 Rocketts Cottages ...	16
		— 34
Curland ...	1/2 Castle View ...	2
Hatch Beauchamp ...	1/4 Palmers Green Cottages ...	4
Kingston ...	1/6 Parks Cottages ...	6
do. ...	1 and 2 Chaces ...	2
do. ...	1/8 Greenway Terrace ...	8
do. ...	1/4 Fulford Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/10 Parsonage Cottages ...	10
		— 30
Lydeard St. Lawrence..	1/4 Nethercott Road ...	4

Parish.		Address.		Number of Houses.
North Curry	...	1/6 Oxen Lane	...	6
Do.	...	1/4 Backham Cottages	...	4
Do.	...	1/10 Croft Cottages	...	10
Do.	...	1/8 Lillesdon Terrace	...	8
do.	...	1/8 Cricket Cottages	...	8
				— 36
Norton Fitzwarren	...	1/4 Burnshill Terrace	...	4
do.	...	1/24 Rectory Road Cottages	...	24
do.	...	1/10 Station Road Cottages	...	10
do.	...	1/4 Manleys Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/4 Court Cottages	...	4
				— 46
Pitminster	...	1/8 Littleham Cottages	...	8
Ruishton	...	1/5 Ruishton Lane Cottages	...	5
do.	...	1/3 Lipe Lane Cottages	...	3
do.	...	1/4 Slades Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/12 Steart Cottages	...	12
				— 24
Staplegrove	...	1/6 Hillhead Cottages	...	6
Stoke St. Gregory	...	1/16 Willey Road	...	16
Do.	...	1/8 Stathe Cottages	...	8
Do.	...	1/10 Woodhill Terrace	...	10
				— 34
Stoke St. Mary	...	1/4 Homefield Cottages	...	4
Thornfalcon	...	1/4 Glebe Cottages	...	4
Trull	...	1 and 2 Horts Cottages	...	2
West Bagborough	...	1/10 Vale View Cottages	...	10
do.	...	1/4 Hill View Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/4 South View Cottages	...	4
				— 18
West Monkton	...	1/4 Titley Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/4 Brittons Ash Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/6 Hyde Lane Cottages	...	6
do.	...	1/14 School Road Cottages	...	14
				— 28
TOTAL			...	412

Of the above total of 412 houses, 204 were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years, under the Housing Acts of 1930 and 1936.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

At December 31st, 1945, the following individuals were billeted in the District:—

Unaccompanied Children	...	...	10
Accompanied Children	...	..	2
Mothers, Helpers, Teachers	...	...	0
			—
TOTAL	...	...	12
			—

This is 637 less than in 1944.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis), their age groups and the notification rates compared with those of England and Wales, and the number admitted to the Isolation Hospital:—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications.	AGE GROUPS.							No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 & over	
Scarlet Fever ...	20	—	—	5	10	4	—	1	16
Whooping Cough...	16	1	5	3	6	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Measles ...	148	2	18	36	74	8	7	3	3
Diphtheria ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Acute Pneumonia..	9	—	—	3	—	—	2	4	—
Dysentery ...	40	1	—	—	—	—	12	27	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Oph. Neonatorum..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Notification rates for Taunton Rural District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births:—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications.	Rates for	
		Taunton R.D.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever ...	20	1.12	1.89
Whooping Cough ...	16	0.90	1.64
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—
Measles ...	148	8.34	11.67
Diphtheria ...	3	0.16	0.46
Acute Pneumonia ...	9	0.50	0.87
Dysentery ...	40	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	0.05	0.25
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	0.05	9.93
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—

The District is one of the constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Hospital Board. The annual report of the work done at Taunton Isolation Hospital during 1945 will be found at the end of this report.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1945 and mortality from the disease:—

Nw Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Ages in Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15 — 20	—	3	1	1	—	1	—	—
20 — 25	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
25 — 35	4	4	—	—	—	1	—	1
35 — 45	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
45 — 55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
55 — 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 78 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 20 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Prevention of Blindness.

No arrangements have been made by the Local Authority with respect to the prevention of Blindness, under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are notified by the Doctors to the Public Health Department of the County Council and when necessary are admitted to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, where they are maintained by the County Council.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continues to be carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by the Medical Practitioners in the District. The County Council's Immunisation Scheme commenced in Taunton Rural District during 1941. The following figures show how the scheme is progressing, but the figures relate only to Somerset children and not Government Evacuees:—

Year.	Pre-school Children.		School Children.
	Age group 0—4.		Age group 5—14.
1941	...	446	1,563
1942	...	92	155
1943	...	211	137
1944	...	238	78
1945	...	260	99
TOTAL		1,247	2,032

Estimates of the child population at mid-year 1945 in the above age groups show that approximately 18.8 per cent. of pre-school children and 3.8 per cent. of school children were further immunised during 1945, against 16.8 and 2.8 respectively during 1944.

In the recent Circulars (193/45 and 194/45), issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that if Diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year, dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of toxoid before he begins school attendance. After six years of mass immunisation of the children of this country, approximately 55 per cent. have been immunised. The aim is to immunise at least 75 per cent. The Circulars point out that there are some 600,000 children being added to the country's susceptible population every year, and it is suggested that it is to the age groups one and two that much greater attention should be directed in 1946. It is estimated that the rate of dying from Diphtheria is approximately 23 times as great amongst the non-immunised as amongst the immunised.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

**Report of the Medical Superintendent for the year ended
31st December, 1945.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I append a tabulated statement of the number of admissions, discharges and deaths applicable to the Board's Hospital during the year 1945.

The admissions were slightly lower, 260 against 288 for 1944, but this factor made no appreciable difference in overcoming difficulties arising out of the continuing shortage of Nurses and Domestic Staff. However, wise planning by the Matron and goodwill on the part of her Staffs, have prevented any lowering of attention to the patients.

There were 8 deaths during the year against 6 during 1944. The deaths were due to:—Tuberculous Meningitis 1; Puerperal Fever 1; Broncho-Pneumonia due to Whooping Cough 2; Dysentery 2 (one suffering from senility and the other an infant); Gastro-Enteritis 1 (a Marasmic infant); and Marasmus 1 (due to prematurity).

Seventeen operations were performed in the Theatre against 15 during 1944. They were:—Caesarian Section and Hysterectomy 1; Amputation of Cervix 1 (a patient admitted for the purpose from Chard Sanatorium); Appendicectomy 2 (complicated with Measles and Chicken-pox respectively); Curettage of Uterus 2; Extirpation of Abdominal Cyst 1 (a patient from Taunton Sanatorium). These seven operations were performed by the Board's Surgeon, Mr. Nicholson-Lailey. In addition, Tonsillectomy was carried out on 10 patients by the Board's Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, Mr. Graeme Allan.

The Theatre was also in use for the performance of 192 Artificial Pneumothorax Refills in connection with cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis against 62 during 1944.

There were 37 admissions to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium; 21 were discharged and 20 died. The total patient days for these cases were 7,363 against 7,239 for 1944.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. DE V. KING,

Medical Superintendent.

February, 1946.

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Tabulated Statement of Cases, etc., for Year 1945.

DISTRICT.		Admitted.	Brought forward from 1944	Remaining Dec. 31, 1945.	Discharged.	Died.	No. of Patient Days.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Diphtheria Carriers.	Diphtheria Contacts	Tonsillitis (Vincent's, etc.)	Measles.	Measles Contact.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken-pox.	Mumps.	Mumps Contact.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Tuberculous Meningitis.	Dysentery.	Poliomyelitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Dermatoses (Observation).	Abortus Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Septic Abortion.	Toxæmia of Pregnancy.	Parturition (Complicated).	Baby born in Hospital.	Nursing Mother.	Contact Infants.	Broncho-Pneumonia.	Gastro-Enteritis.	Acute Rheumatic Fever.	Cystitis.	Pleurisy.		
Taunton Borough	...	92	6	10	84	4	2339	28	6	7	0	15	10	1	2	2	0	0	5	1	0	3	1	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Wellington Urban	...	15	3	2	16	0	475	8	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taunton Rural	...	31	0	6	24	1	745	16	2	2	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wellington Rural	...	6	2	1	7	0	281	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Bridgwater Rural	...	7	0	1	6	0	224	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dulverton Rural	...	11	1	0	12	0	500	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Authorities	...	18	0	0	17	1	415	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	
War Office	...	8	0	0	8	0	191	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maternity & Child Welfare.																																								
Somerset C.C.	...	35	0	1	33	1	615	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	18	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taunton Borough	...	34	0	0	33	1	678	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	17	2	0	1	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Cases.																																								
Staff	3	0	0	3	0	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	
TOTALS		260	12	21	243	8	6562	60	13	14	2	24	15	1	4	4	3	1	7	3	1	3	2	5	11	1	35	6	1	1	1	2	18	2	16	2	1	1	1	1

